

Applicant : Belef, et al.
Appl. No. : 10/081,723
Examiner : Dawson, Glenn K.
Docket No. : 701879.18

Remarks

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application. Claim 28 has been amended. A replacement drawing sheet 2/14 (containing FIGS. 3A and 3B) is submitted herewith. The specification has been amended at the first full paragraph on page 33 to reflect the amendment to the drawings.

I. Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings. Specifically, the Examiner stated that "the locking mechanism on the locator member must be shown [in the drawings] or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)."

In response, Applicant submits herewith a replacement drawing sheet 2/14, which contains FIGS. 3A and 3B. FIG. 3B has been amended to include a locking mechanism (element 189) on the obturator housing (element 180). Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 33, lines 4-11, and elsewhere. No new matter is added.

An appropriate change was made to the specification to reflect the drawing change. Specifically, the reference number 189 was added to the specification description. No new matter is added.

II. Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that "there is no antecedent basis for 'the annular space.'"

In response, the Examiner's stated basis for the rejection has been addressed in the foregoing amendment to claim 28. Specifically, the phrase "the annular space" has been amended to recite "an annular space," thereby obviating the basis for rejection.

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III. Conclusion

Prompt and favorable action on the merits of the application is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned can be reached at (949) 567-6700.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 15-0665.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings

Attached herewith is corrected drawing sheet 2/14 (FIGS. 3A and 3B) submitted to replace drawing sheet 2/14. Specifically, Figure 3B now shows a locking mechanism (element 189) in the obturator housing (element 180).

Attachment: Replacement Sheet